

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/985,889

Examiner

TUAN A. PHAM

Applicant(s)

TABATA ET AL.

Art Unit

2643

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/24/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-10, 12-16 and 20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney of record Paul Lewis on 02-06-2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

**Claim 1 has been changed as follows:**

-- 1. A communication system for individuals, comprising:  
a plurality of helmets each helmet being provided with a speaker and a microphone;  
a communication unit;  
a cable for connecting the communication unit and each of said helmets for enabling communication between individuals wearing each helmet; and  
a connector for connecting the communication unit and the cable, said connector being a magnetic connector and including plural electrodes;

wherein said connector includes a first socket mounted on the communication unit and a second socket mounted on the cable, said first socket including a pair of magnets thereon and said second socket including a magnetic material thereon, and said first and second sockets are held together by the magnetic attraction between the pair of magnets and the magnetic material;

**wherein the communication unit comprises:**

**a final controlling element mounted in the vicinity of a hand grip for a vehicle;**

**a relay section mounted at a position where the amount of movement when the hand grip is steered is small; and**

**a relaying cable for electrically connecting the final controlling element and the relay section, wherein the cable is connected to the relay section. --**

**Claim 9 has been changed as follows:**

-- 9. A communication system for individuals, comprising:

a plurality of helmets each helmet being provided with a speaker and a microphone;

a communication unit;

a cable for connecting the communication unit and each of said helmets for enabling communication between individuals wearing each helmet; and

a connector for connecting the communication unit and the cable, said connector being a magnetic connector and including plural electrodes;

wherein one end of said cable includes a magnetically attractive material and the distal end of the cable includes a magnetic material wherein the one end of the cable and the distal end mate with each other during storage of the cable during non-use

**wherein the communication unit comprises:**

**a final controlling element mounted in the vicinity of a hand grip for a vehicle;**

**a relay section mounted at a position where the amount of movement when the hand grip is steered is small; and**

**a relaying cable for electrically connecting the final controlling element and the relay section, wherein the cable is connected to the relay section. --**

**Claim 10 has been changed as follows:**

-- 10. A communication system for individuals, comprising:

a plurality of helmets each helmet being provided with a speaker and a microphone;

a communication unit;

a cable for connecting the communication unit and each of said helmets for enabling communication between individuals wearing each helmet; and

a connector for connecting the communication unit and the cable, said connector being a magnetic connector and including plural electrodes;

wherein said connector includes a first socket mounted on the communication unit and a second socket mounted on the cable, said first socket including a pair of

Art Unit: 2643

magnets thereon and said second socket including a magnetic material thereon, and said first and second sockets are held together by the magnetic attraction between the pair of magnets and the magnetic material

**wherein the communication unit comprises:**

**a final controlling element mounted in the vicinity of a hand grip for a vehicle;**

**a relay section mounted at a position where the amount of movement when the hand grip is steered is small; and**

**a relaying cable for electrically connecting the final controlling element and the relay section, wherein the cable is connected to the relay section. --**

**Claim 16 has been changed as follows:**

-- 16. A communication system for individuals, comprising:

a plurality of helmets each helmet being provided with a speaker and a microphone;

a communication unit;

a cable for connecting the communication unit and each of said helmets for enabling communication between individuals wearing each helmet; and

a connector for connecting the communication unit and the cable, said connector being a magnetic connector and including plural electrodes,

Art Unit: 2643

wherein one end of said cable includes a magnetically attractive material and the distal end of the cable includes a magnetic material wherein the one end of the cable and the distal end mate with each other during storage of the cable during non-use

**wherein the communication unit comprises:**

**a final controlling element mounted in the vicinity of a hand grip for a vehicle;**

**a relay section mounted at a position where the amount of movement when the hand grip is steered is small; and**

**a relaying cable for electrically connecting the final controlling element and the relay section, wherein the cable is connected to the relay section. --**

Claims 4 and 17 have been deleted.

**(End of Amendment)**

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-16, and 20 are allowed over the prior art of record.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The applicant's Remarks, filed on 01/24/2006, have been carefully reviewed with update search. Consequently, reasons for allowance of claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-16, and 20 are stated as follows.

Regarding claims 1, 3, 9-10, and 16, the prior art made of record fails to clearly teach or fairly suggest the feature of a communication system for individuals comprising a plurality of helmets, communication unit, and a cable are connecting the communication unit and each of the helmets by a magnetic connector, the magnetic connector is including plural electrodes, wherein the communication unit comprises a final controlling element mounted in the vicinity of a hand grip for a vehicle; a relay section mounted at a position where the amount of movement when the hand grip is steered is small; and a relaying cable for electrically connecting the final controlling element and the relay section, wherein the cable is connected to the relay section, in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claims 1, 3, 9-10, and 16, and further limitations of their respective dependent claims 2, 5-8, 12-15, and 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tuan A. Pham** whose telephone number is (571) 272-8097. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.

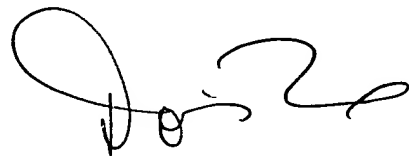
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Doris To can be reached on (571) 272-7629 and

**IF PAPER HAS BEEN MISSED FROM THIS OFFICIAL ACTION PACKAGE, PLEASE CALL Customer Service at (571) 272-2600 FOR THE SUBSTITUTIONS OR COPIES.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have question on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit 2643  
February 7, 2006  
Examiner

Tuan Pham



**DORIS H. TO**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
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